

the
vancouver
aquarium

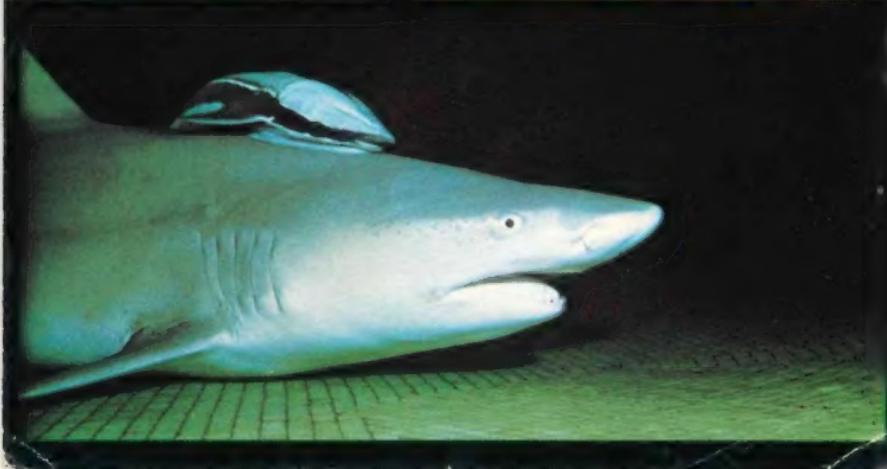
british columbia, canada



The vast aquatic realm covers three-quarters of the earth's surface and supports an incredible variety of creatures. Bizarre and beautiful inhabitants of the swiftly running streams, the tranquil lakes and the oceans and seas await the visitor in the Vancouver Aquarium.

The Vancouver Aquarium is modern in concept, and is one of the largest, most attractive aquariums in North America. Exhibits of aquatic animals from around the globe introduce the visitor to the world of water. Invertebrates, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals — over 8300 specimens, representing 650 species, dwell in beautifully arranged tanks or in large outdoor pools.

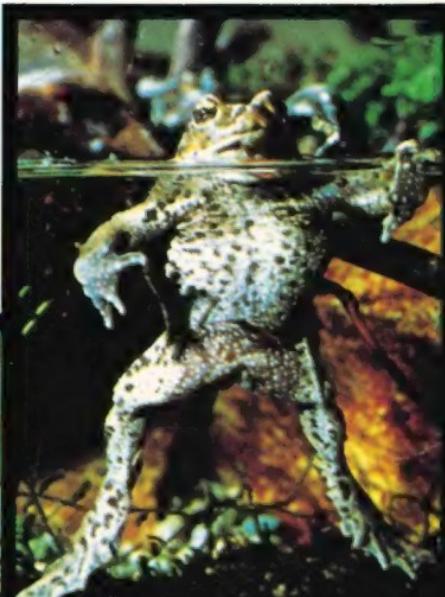
The killer whale is one of the world's most magnificent creatures. Its strength and vitality have caused men to fear it and to create great myths around it. Killer Whales and dolphins thrill visitors daily with their graceful dolphin leaps and keen intelligence. Their 480,000 gallon outdoor pool is an architectural masterpiece which features an underwater viewing area in which visitors can see both above and below the surface of the water.



In the adjacent B.C. Tel Pool playful Arctic beluga whales peer curiously at visitors through underwater windows and emit bizarre noises as they go through their training sessions. They are shy, yet friendly animals which are white in colour and adapted to living among ice floes.

The Aquarium's newest outdoor display is the Finning Sea Otter Pool, which houses delightful sea otters from the Northwest coast. These animals were almost rendered extinct by fur hunters, but are making a comeback along the Pacific coast where they once lived in great numbers.

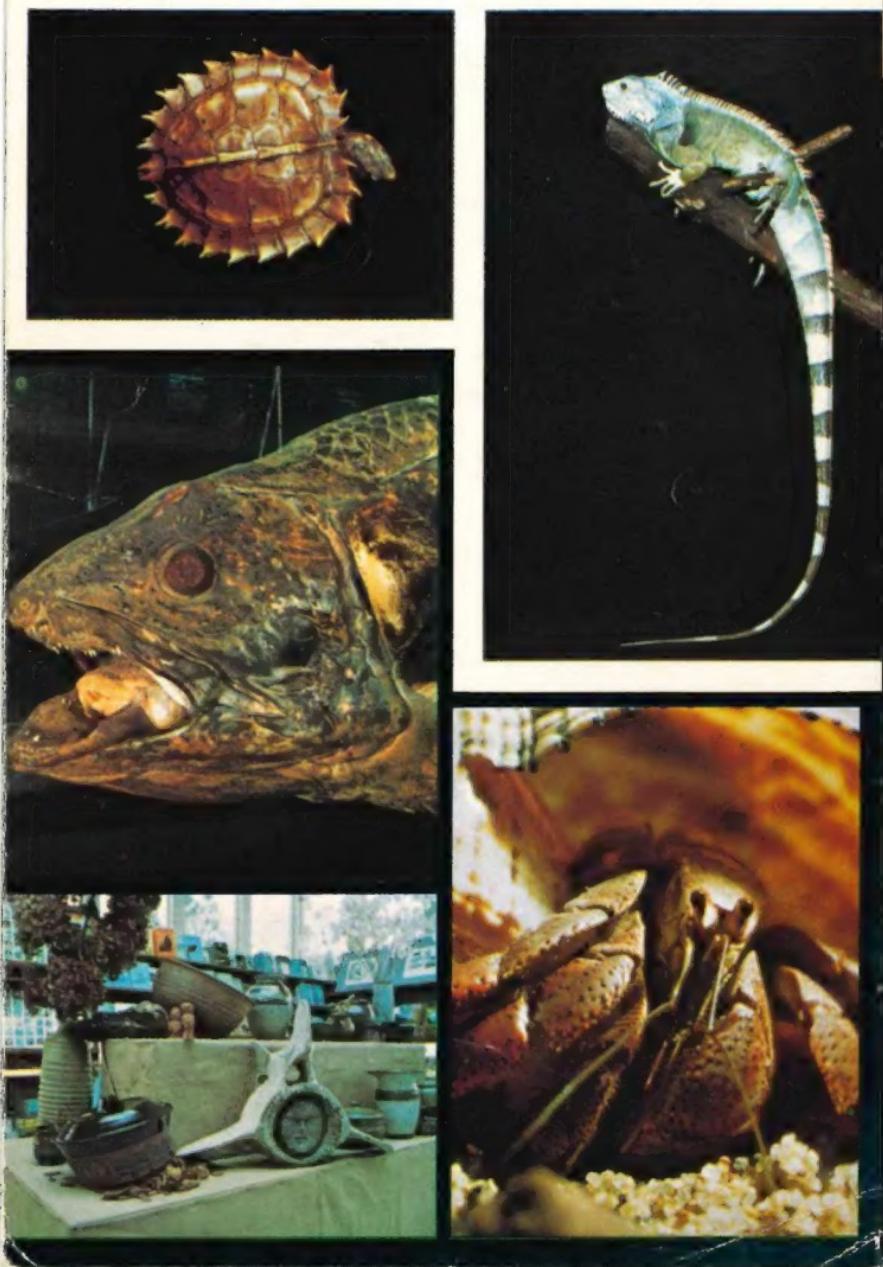
In the British Columbia Hall of Fishes one descends below the surface to the fascinating realm of marine fishes and invertebrates of the Northwest coast. Exhibits in this gallery move from the open ocean to the exposed outer coast of Vancouver Island, across the Strait of Georgia to the shores of Vancouver. As the waters of British Columbia support one of the richest arrays of marine life in the world, one sees forms of life seldom seen elsewhere. Sea anemones, crabs, starfishes, the giant Pacific octopus, rock fishes and tiny delicate forms of life are just a sampling of the animals displayed here.

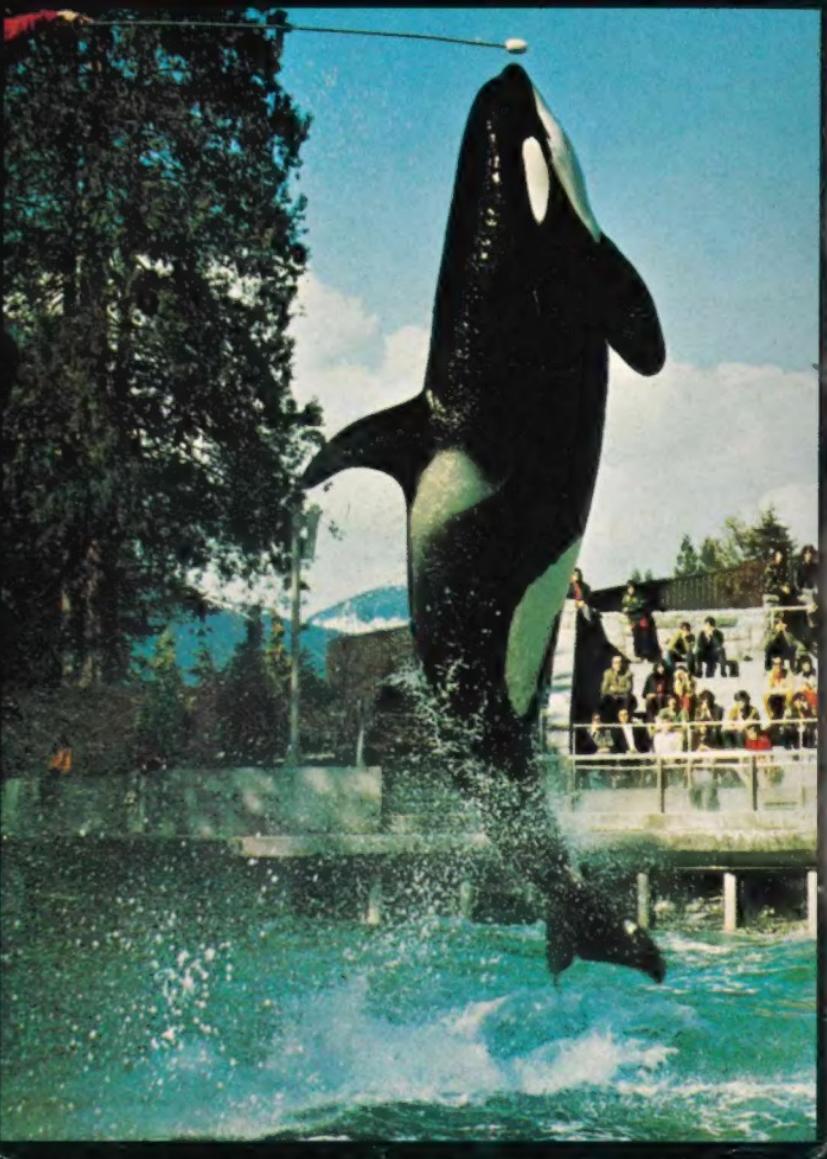


In the Rufe Gibbs Hall, creatures from the inland waters of British Columbia are displayed in mini-environments depicting lake and stream bottoms. Trout, carp, perch, crayfish, frogs, and newts are only a few of the freshwater creatures displayed in this gallery. In the autumn one can observe the exciting story of the salmon as the adults spawn and die, giving life to a new generation of salmon which hatch and develop in special eye-level tanks.

Brilliantly coloured coral-reef fishes, large sea turtles, exotic crocodiles, primitive lungfishes, the venomous stonefish, the coelacanth — these are some of the animals seen in the H.R. MacMillan Tropical Gallery. The exhibits here come from such faraway places as Fiji, Hawaii, the Caribbean, the Soviet Union, Thailand, Australia, Singapore, South America and Africa.

In the Foley Pacific Ocean Foyer is the Clam Shell gift shop. Here one can find an excellent selection of books on Canadiana and natural history. Handcrafted items such as pottery, sculpture, Northwest Coast Indian art and Eskimo carvings are also available as unique momentos of an Aquarium visit.





By presenting aquatic creatures in their natural surroundings, the Aquarium awakens and stimulates an interest in aquatic life. During the summer months, uniformed young men and women greet visitors, answering questions and presenting informative talks about the exhibits. Throughout the school year, the Aquarium is used extensively by school classes who take advantage of the Aquarium's unique learning facilities.

Research and collecting activities, university extension courses and international scientific expeditions are also carried out by the Aquarium. However, it is the exciting whale shows and the thousands of fascinating aquatic specimens which make the Vancouver Aquarium one of the outstanding institutions of its kind in the world.

Located in beautiful Stanley Park, the Vancouver Aquarium with its exhibits of killer whales, seals, sea otters, fishes, reptiles and invertebrates is an exciting and enjoyable experience for visitors. It is operated by a non-profit society, the Vancouver Public Aquarium Association, and opens to the public every day of the year from 10:00 a.m. to dusk.

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